

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on November 03, 2003, has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Prior to this paper, claims 1-22 were pending in the present application, with claims 4-9 and 11 being withdrawn from consideration. By this paper, Applicants add claims 23-28. No claims are deleted. Therefore, claims 1-28 are now pending in the present application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance for the reasons that follow.

Interview of January 28, 2004

Applicants thank Examiner Foreman for extending the courtesy of an in-person interview to Applicants' representative on January 28, 2004, where the above claim amendments and new claims were presented, and it was agreed that claims having such recitations would appear to overcome the prior art of record.

Reference Characters

Reference characters have been retained in the claims but have no effect on the claim scope per MPEP § 608.01(m).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 10, 12 and 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Akerfeldt (USP 5,938,624). In response, Applicants have amended claim 1,¹ the independent claim, and respectfully submit that the above claims are now allowable for the reasons that follow.

Applicants rely on MPEP § 2131, entitled "Anticipation – Application of 35 U.S.C. 102(a), (b), and (e)," which states that a "claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art

reference.” It is respectfully submitted that Akerfeldt does not describe each and every element of amended claim 1, and thus claims 2-21 as well due to their dependency from claim 1.

As was recognized in the interview of January 28, 2004, Akerfeldt does not disclose a core wire that **does not** have a solid circular cross section. Exemplary embodiments of the claimed core wire may be found, among other places, in Figs. 5-8 of the application. Moreover, Abrahamson (USP 5,382,238), Wallace (USP 6,371,972) and Koelle (USP 6,373,705), cited variously in combination with Akerfeldt, also fail to disclose or suggest the claimed core wire. Therefore, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 2-3, 10, and 12-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Akerfeldt variously in view of Abrahamson, Koelle, and Wallace.

Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable for at least the reason that Akerfeldt does not teach each and every recitation of claim 1, as indicated above, and that Abrahamson, Kolle, and Wallace do not remedy the deficiencies of Akerfeldt.

Withdrawn Claims

Claims 4-9 and 11 were withdrawn in a prior Office Action. Applicants note that these claims depend from claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the PTO rejoin and reconsider claims 4-9 and 11 due to their dependency from claim 1, a claim that is allowable.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 23-28. Support for the new claims may be found, among other places, at Figs. 5-7. For example, Figs. 5-7 show a core wire (3) that is asymmetrical. These Figs. further show a cavity as claimed located within an extrapolated circumference of the core wire (3), and further show a core wire (3) having at least one diameter that is shorter in length than another diameter of the core wire, where the cavity is

¹ Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found, among other places, in Figs. 5-8, which show a core wire (3) that does not have a solid circular cross section.

adjacent to a surface of the core wire forming a terminus of the shorter diameter, and where the conductors are located within a distance from the surface of the core wire forming the terminus that is less than the difference in length between the longest diameter and the at least one shorter diameter.

Applicants respectfully submit that these new claims are allowable for at least the reason that none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element of the new claims. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that at least the new independent claims read on the elected species, and that the new dependent claims should be entered, considered and allowed due to their dependence from an allowable generic claim. Allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Examiner Foreman is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

Feb 03, 2004

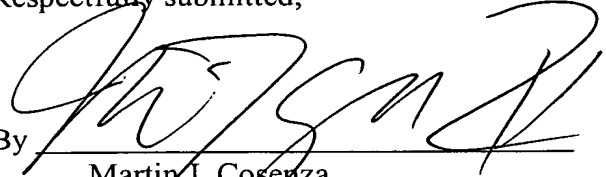
FOLEY & LARDNER

Customer Number: 22428

Telephone: (202) 295-4747

Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By



Martin J. Cosenza
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 48,892